

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 06505 241514Z
ACTION AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9796
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, GH
SUBJ: PAPER ATTACKS JOE APPIAH AND UNION GOVERNMENT

1. IN AN EDITORIAL ATTACK AUGUST 19 OF UNPRECEDENTED VIGOR BACKED UP BY TWO LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, KUMASI PIONEER EXCORIATED JOE APPIAH, GHANA'S AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO THE UN, AND HEAPED SCORN ON GOG'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE UNION GOVERNMENT.

2. APPIAH, WHO HAS BEEN TRAVELING IN WESTERN EUROPE AND US TO PRESENT OFFICIAL VIEW OF POLITICAL/ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN GHANA, WAS CALLED A LIAR. PAPER NOTED THAT IN PARIS HE HAD DISMISSED CHARGES OF CORRUPTION IN HIGHEST GOG CIRCLES, EVEN THOUGH HE HIMSELF HAD CHAIRED COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING SCANDAL WHICH ENDED IN RESIGNATIONS OF GENS. OKAI AND BEAUSOLEIL. IN LONDON, PIONEER COMMENTED, APPIAH CLAIMED MAJORITY OF GHANAIANS SUPPORTED UNION GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, IT POINTED OUT ANGRILY, "MR. APPIAH MAY BE THE ROVING AMBASSADOR OF THE SMC BUT HE CERTAINLY IS NOT THE SPOKEMAN FOR 10 MILLION GHANAIANS AND IT IS ABSURD THAT HE SHOULD COMMIT GHANAIANS TO A SUPPORT OF UNION GOVERNMENT." PAPER STRESSED THAT NO PUBLIC OPINION POLL

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R REFERENDUM HAS YET BEEN HELD TO DETERMINE POPULAR VIEWS ON THIS CONCEPT.

3. PIONEER DERIDED PRO-UNION GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS ORCHESTRATED BY GOG AS "USELESS EXERCISES THAT DO NOT IN ANY WAY EXPRESS THE TRUE FEELING OF GHANAIANS." IT DESCRIBED ONE DEMONSTRATION IN WHICH LESS THAN 200

ILLITERATE WOMEN AND CHILDREN DANCED TO BRASS BAND MUSIC, HOLDING PRO-UNION GOVERNMENT PLACARDS UPSIDE DOWN AND SHOUTING SUPPORT FOR THE GOG; THE NEXT DAY, SAID EDITORIAL, GOG-BACKED PAPERS (TIMES AND GRAPHIC) BILLED THIS FIASCO AS A MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF GOG AND ITS POLICIES. PIONEER DARED GOG TO PERMIT ANTI-UNION GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS TO BE HELD AS WELL.

4. LETTERS TO EDITOR FROM KUMASI READERS ALSO RAKED APPIAH AND UNION GOVERNMENT OVER THE COALS. TEXT OF EDITORIAL AND LETTERS BEING POUCHED AF/W - MCGUIRE.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC ATTACK WE HAVE SEEN AGAINST APPIAH AND THE STRONGEST TO DATE AGAINST UNION GOVERNMENT. PIONEER HAS BEEN AN OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF GOG AND WAS RECENTLY CLOSED DOWN FOR ITS PAINS. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG WILL DECIDE TO MOVE AGAINST IT AGAIN. HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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